[20th March 1950

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi has written a letter to me stating that he has to be away from Madras to-day and so he will be unable to be present in the House to-day. So, Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon is answering questions on his behalf."

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know the policy of the Government regarding the giving of interest-free loans?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" It is not a question of policy. In the case of cyclone-affected areas which require relief, each application will be considered on its merits."

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, as the agricultural season is fast approaching, will the Government give interest-free loans? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" If applications are received, we may consider them favourably in the case of cyclone affected areas."

3 p.m. DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I request you to see that the office gives timely notice of the hour at which the House is to meet, as the hour changes very often. We never have full-time sitting on many days. We are given by grace two hours, one hour or even less. I came at 11 o'clock this morning thinking that the House would meet at that hour as usual, and went away. I request that the hour of commencement may be indicated in the list of questions for each day. I would also request you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, to see that, if the House meets at all, it transacts business for the whole day and not for one or two hours as a sort of recreation."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" The budget programme of this House was communicated to the Members of this House in D.O. No. 8572/49-1, M.L., dated 12th November 1949. In that it was said that the House would meet after lunch on Monday, the 20th March 1950. Usually, the Supplementary Budget is presented to both Houses on the same day, to the Assembly in the morning and the Council in the afternoon. That is why we are meeting in the afternoon to-day."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) HOUSE COMMITTEE.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, I move—

'*that with reference to rule* 144 *of the Madras Council Rules, the House do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. Chairman to elect six members to be members of the House Committee for the financial year* 1950–51.' "

The motion was put and carried.

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THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" I have to inform the House that, in accordance with the regulations framed by the Hon. Chairman for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Wednesday, the 22nd March 1950, as the time within which nomination of candidates for election to the House Committee should reach the Secretary. There will be an election on a date to be announced in due course if the number of candidates nominated exceeds six."

(2) COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, I move—

' *that, with reference to rule 143 of the Madras Council Rules, this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. Chairman to elect nine members to be members of the Committee of Privileges for the financial year* 1950–51.' "

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—" Motion moved—

' that, with reference to rule 143 of the Madras Council Rules, this Council do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. Chairman to elect nine members to be members of the Committee of Privileges for the financial year 1950–51.' "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, under the old rules, we did not have this Committee of Privileges. I wish the Hon. Leader of the House to enlighten us as to why this Committee is proposed under the present rules. Though the rules have been made by the Chairman, I am sure the Government would have been consulted. For the past few days we have been hearing a great deal about the appointment of a committee of privileges and so on. We would like to know whether membership of the committee involves duties of a very high order, and what the functions of the committee are, so that we can vote for those who are competent to deal with matters coming before the committee."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Sir, may I say a few words with your permission?

" Article 194 of the Constitution lays down certain powers, privileges and immunities of a House of the Legislature and the Members thereof and in other respects they shall be such as may from time to time be defined by the Legislature by law, and, until so defined, shall be those of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom and of its members at the commencement of this Constitution. In the revised Council Rules, provision is made for the constitution of a Committee of Privileges analogous to the practice existing in the House of Commons. The work of the Committee is to look into complaints about breach of privileges and report to the Chairman or the House.